

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 04413 131755Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03

OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

EPG-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 /085 W

-----039199 132221Z /70

R 131600Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1252

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRJN DR

SUBJECT: SUGAR: UN SUGAR CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 157273, (B) SANTO DOMINGO 1646

1. EMBOFF INFORMED BY SECRETARY OF STATE SUGAR INSTITUTE (INAZUCAR) THAT GODR DELEGATION TO LONDON CONF WILL LIKELY BE SIMILAR TO HIGH LEVEL GROUP AT RECENT GENEVA CONFERENCE, REFLECTING STRONG GODR INTEREST. EXPECTED THAT MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE: JESUS MARIA TRONCOSO, CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION, A WELL-CONNECTED LAWYER; QUIRILIO VILORIO SANCHEZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INAZUCAR; MANUEL FEDERICO ECHENIQUE, SECRETARY OF INAZUCAR; FELIPE VICINI, KEY MEMBER OF THE PRIVATE VICINI FAMILY SUGAR-PRODUCING COMPANY; CARLOS MORALES TRONCOSO, PRESIDENT OF GULF AND WESTERN'S SUBSIDIARY IN THE DR; AND ANDRES ESPINAL, ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO THE CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR.

2. APPARENT FROM EMBASSY CONVERSATIONS WITH SUGAR INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES THAT GODR ALSO REGARDS JULY 20-29 UN SUGAR CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON AS CRUCIAL. WHILE SUGAR IS NOT RPT NOT A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 SANTO 04413 131755Z

CRITICAL ISSUE FOR MOST COUNTRIES, PRODUCERS OR CONSUMERS, IT IS VERY MUCH SO FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. SUGAR IS THE PRINCIPAL EARNER OF THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE, ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY HALF OF TOTAL EARNINGS, DEPENDING ON THE AVERAGE SALES PRICE. ALMOST HALF OF THE DR'S INCOME AND INTERNAL REVENUES AND OVER 20 PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT ARE DERIVED FROM SUGAR AND ITS PROCESSING.

3. THE DR, GEOGRAPHICALLY CLOSE TO THE U.S., HAS BEEN ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST RELIABLE SUPPLIERS OF SUGAR TO THE U.S., CONSISTENTLY FULFILLING ITS QUOTA UNDER THE OLD U.S. SUGAR LEGISLATION EVEN WHEN THE WORLD MARKET PRICE WAS HIGHER AT TIMES. APPROXIMATELY A THIRD OF THE SUGAR SUPPLIED TO THE U.S. MARKET FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IS PRODUCED BY A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF A U.S. COMPANY, GULF AND WESTERN.

4. THE STABILITY AND LEVEL OF SUGAR PRICES ARE PRINCIPAL FACTORS IN THE DR'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FORTUNES. THE CONTINUANCE OF THE CURRENT AVERAGE SALES PRICE BELOW THE AVERAGE DR COST OF PRODUCTION WILL ACT AS A CONSTRAINT TO FURTHER ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND

PROSPERITY. ACTIONS IN WASHINGTON LONDON OR GENEVA ADVERSELY AFFECTING DOMINICAN SUGAR EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY INsofar AS THEY AFFECT DOMINICAN RELIANCE ON SALES TO THE U.S., ARE LIKELY TO BECOME ISSUES IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF MAY 1978.
HURWITCH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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